

Intarcia Dkt No. ALE 053.16
 USSN: 10/645,293
 PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS
 (including complete listing of the claims)

1-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) An implantable, fluid-imbibing device for delivering an active agent to a fluid environment of use, said device comprising a reservoir and a back diffusion regulating outlet for delivering fluid from the reservoir to the fluid environment, the reservoir and back diffusion regulating outlet having surfaces in a mating relationship wherein a helical flow path is formed between the mating surfaces wherein a length of the helical flow path is sufficient to prevent back-diffusion of external fluid through the helical flow path, wherein the helical flow path has a length of about 2 to about 7 cm.

52. (Currently Amended) An implantable, fluid-imbibing device for delivering an active agent to a fluid environment of use, said device comprising a reservoir and a back diffusion regulating outlet for delivering fluid from the reservoir to the fluid environment, the reservoir and back diffusion regulating outlet having surfaces in a mating relationship, wherein a helical flow path is formed between the mating surfaces, wherein a length of the helical flow path is sufficient to prevent back-diffusion of external fluid through the helical flow path, wherein the helical flow path has a diameter of about 0.003 to about 0.020 inches.

53. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 52, wherein the helical flow path has a length of about 2 to about 7 cm.

54. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 51, wherein the back diffusion regulating outlet comprises a thermoplastic member and the reservoir comprises a metal ~~capsule~~ and the helical flow path is formed by a helical groove in an exterior surface of the thermoplastic member and by an interior surface of the ~~metal capsule~~ reservoir.

55. (Previously Presented) A fluid-imbibing device for delivering an active agent to a fluid environment of use, said device comprising a water-swellaable semipermeable plug that is received in sealing relationship with an interior of the surface of an open end of an

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implantable reservoir and an active agent to be displaced from the device when the water-swellaible semipermeable plug swells, wherein an exterior surface of the semipermeable plug includes circumferential ridges.

56. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein the semipermeable plug seals to the interior surface of the open end such that the semipermeable plug is retained in the open end.

57. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 71, wherein the semipermeable material includes circumferential ridges.

58. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 57, wherein there is a clearance between the ridges and the interior surface of the reservoir into which the semipermeable material expands due to hydration.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein the semipermeable plug is substantially cylindrical and expands radially upon hydration to provide a friction fit with the interior surface and longitudinally to displace the active agent.

60. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein the semipermeable plug comprises a material selected from the group consisting of plasticized cellulosic materials, polyurethanes, and polyamides.

61. (Previously Presented) A fluid-imbibing device for delivering an active agent to a fluid environment of use, said device comprising:

- an impermeable reservoir having an interior surface and an open end;
- a water-swellaible, semipermeable, substantially cylindrical plug received in sealing relationship with the interior surface of the impermeable reservoir at the open end, wherein an exterior surface of the plug has a plurality of circumferential ridges; and
- an active agent received in the reservoir to be displaced from the reservoir by passage of fluid through the plug.

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62. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 61, wherein there is a clearance between the circumferential ridges and the interior surface of the reservoir into which the plug expands due to hydration.

63. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 61, wherein the plug comprises a material selected from the group consisting of plasticized cellulosic materials, polyurethanes, and polyamides.

64. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 61, further comprising a movable member within the impermeable reservoir separating the active agent from a swellable agent.

65-70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently Amended) A fluid-imbibing device for delivering an active ~~gent~~ agent to a fluid environment of use, said device comprising a water-swellable semipermeable material that is received in sealing relationship with an interior surface of an open end of an implantable reservoir, a back diffusion regulating outlet, and an active agent to be displaced from the device when the ~~water-swellable~~ water-swellable material swells, wherein the semipermeable material is a substantially cylindrical plug which expands radially upon hydration to provide a friction fit and expands longitudinally to displace the active agent, wherein the implantable reservoir and the back diffusion regulating outlet have surfaces in a mating relationship and a helical flow path formed between the mating surfaces.

72. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 71, wherein the semipermeable material seals to the interior surface of the open end such that the semipermeable material is retained in the open end.

73. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 55, wherein there is a clearance between the circumferential ridges and an interior surface of the reservoir into which the semipermeable material expands due to hydration.

74. (Canceled)

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75. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 71, wherein the semipermeable material is selected from the group consisting of plasticized cellulosic materials, polyurethanes, and polyamides.